



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 25, 2003
Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department Collects \$109,910 for Alleged Air Violations at Mobil Facility in Lea County

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has entered into a settlement agreement with Mobil Pipe Line Company (Mobil) to resolve alleged air violations at the company's Buckeye Station Tank Battery located near Buckeye in Lea County. Mobil is a subsidiary of the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

As a part of the settlement, NMED will collect \$109,910 from the company. These funds will go to the State of New Mexico General Fund where they will be available for state funded programs including environmental protection.

This agreement settles issues raised in June 2001 compliance order against Mobil. In that Order, the Department found that the company had operated a 42,000-barrel oil tank without an air permit for 15 years (1985-1999). The company also had not installed any air emission control devices on the tank. These devices help control the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which contribute to ozone pollution and have been shown to cause asthma, especially in children.

Mobil has since corrected the problem at this facility.

"Fifteen years is far too long to allow a facility to operate outside the law," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "This case has all the hallmarks of what NMED is working for in environmental regulation. By forcing more timely enforcement we are clearing up these old, lingering issues. This helps businesses clear their environmental slates and—more importantly—it provides better health protections to the people of New Mexico."

This civil penalty of \$109,910 must be paid to NMED within 30 days of the issuance of the settlement agreement. If Mobil fails to do this, it will be charged interest at the rate established by state law.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

###